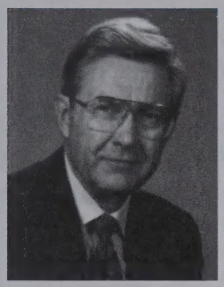
Colorado for Family Values



A Message from Will Perkins

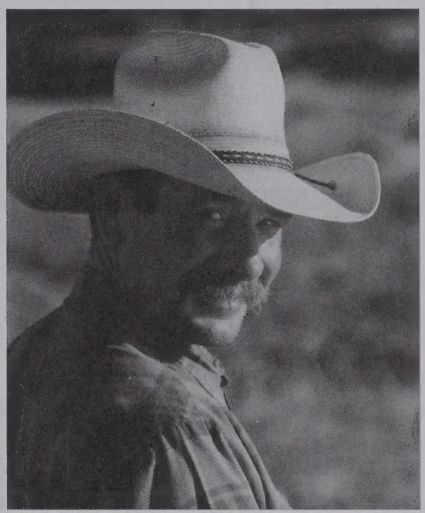
Chairman of the Board, Colorado for Family Values

Dear Friend,

Before I start sharing with you my latest concerns about homosexual activism, I want to tell you about a very special friend of ours — in fact, a friend to anyone who cares about family values in Colorado.

His name is Norm Wright.

Norm is a cowboy. Not just someone who wears western duds, but a true-blue, professional, range-riding cowboy. The last of a breed. He's known across this part of the country as the man to call when a herd needs rescuing from a tight canyon, when the terrain is too rough for all but the most expert horseman.



Our friend Norm Wright.

More important than that, Norm is a Christian. Forget all you've heard about cowboys' rugged self-reliance and stubborn pride. Norm's deepest faith has never been in himself or his considerable skills, but rather in the God who has lived within him since he was ten years old.

I'm telling you about Norm because a few weeks ago, Norm went to be with the Lord. He was doing what he loved best — riding the range out in Western Oklahoma, when a bolt of lightning struck him down in the saddle. Just like that, he and his horse were gone. We're going to miss Norm, especially Jim Witmer and CFV founder Kevin Tebedo, who were both close friends of Norm and his family. Jim took this picture of Norm only days before his death, on an impromptu visit to go spend time with his buddy.

But as much as we'll miss him, we also rejoice at the certainty that he's with his heavenly Father right now, experiencing the blessing that will come to all believers.

So again, why tell you this? Maybe to memorialize someone we cared about. Norm is a man worth remembering. But maybe it's something more. Maybe it's because Norm embodies the Western ideal of a man who doesn't ask much from his country — the right to ride his horse across the prairies, worship God and raise his family according to his values. Not much more than that. And those simple freedoms seem too much for some people to allow.

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So please join us in praying for the Wright family in Walsh. And let's pray that men like Norm, and the freedoms he embodied, do not become extinct in the vast, wild places of Colorado.

You see, today, during a month which the National Education Association once proclaimed as "National Gay History Month" for our public schools, freedom of conscience on this issue is more endangered than ever.

Homosexual activists are winning their war to force the indoctrination of schoolchildren into the "normalcy" of the homosexual lifestyle.

✓ In Provincetown, Massachusetts, the public schools plan to implement a pro-homosexual "education" program at all grade levels. The Provincetown "Anti-Bias School and Community Project" will train teachers to tailor their lessons for diverse "sexual orientations" and encourage school administrators to "search for, hire and retain a diverse staff, including sexual minorities." The local police chief, superintendent of schools, and a local Catholic priest have all spoken in favor of the curriculum. [1]

✓ In Dallas, a homosexual satellite school for "gay" teens has just opened. Homosexual educators vow that this sort of school is just the beginning of what they have in store for schoolchildren. "While the Walt Whitman school is important to make sure that kids get their diplomas," said one activist, "it doesn't get at the fact that straight kids are homophobic and will continue to be homophobic until we start changing attitudes." [2]

✓ Across the country, often with the backing of state PTA chapters, the pro-homosexual documentary "It's Elementary" continues to tour. Produced by an Academy Award-winning (lesbian) filmmaker, the documentary advocates teaching children that "Gay is OK" at the earliest ages. Even the *San Francisco Chronicle*, a newspaper with very liberal tendencies, said the documentary offers an "unabashedly biased, upbeat look at a subject that most parents would probably rather see disappear. Politically, it's a stick of dynamite...." [3]

In the documentary, first graders write stories about homosexual families, third graders discuss same-sex marriage, and middle school students learn about the "ethnicity of sexual orientation." Teachers, parents, and principals discuss the best way to include homosexual issues in elementary school curricula. One school even initiates a schoolwide celebration of "Lesbian and Gay Pride," complete with pink triangle buttons and presentations from openly gay teachers. Kaylin, a second grade student, reads a story she wrote about marching in her hometown's gay pride parade. Kaylin then appears in the march saying, "Hey, hey. Ho, ho. Homophobia's got to go." She then writes how homophobia "means being scared of gay or lesbian people." In a picture to accompany the story, the crowd is also chanting, "Hey, hey. Ho, ho. Homophobia's got to go."

A telling point in the film comes when a teacher at a faculty meeting points out that some teachers and students disagree with the gay lifestyle. She suggests that such students should not be forced to agree, and says that people who disapprove of homosexuality should not necessarily be labeled as "homophobic." Her comments draw no sympathy from the other teachers. Instead, the other educators respond in downright demeaning tones toward their colleague.

One teacher in the film sends children a very chilling message. *"There isn't a right way, there isn't a wrong way — there isn't a good way, there isn't a bad way. The way that is, is what it is."* The documentary leaves its viewers with a song espousing these lyrics: *"Your children belong to the future. Your children are not your children. They come through you, but they are not from you. Though they are with you, they belong not to you."*[4]

The film has been endorsed by the President of the American School Counselor Association. The *San Francisco Examiner* called it, ". . . one of the most important films ever devoted to lesbian and gay issues." A California state legislator called it, "A 'must see' for educational policy makers everywhere."

✓ Colorado: The city of Boulder, Colorado's Office of Human Rights has applied for a $9,000 grant to institute a "Valuing Diversity" program for school teachers and administrators. The program intends to "counteract homophobia and heterosexism" in public schools. [5]

✓ For the third straight year, a national pro-homosexual teachers group calling itself the "Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network" has launched its Annual "Back-to-School" Campaign, featuring nationwide advertising advocating pro-homosexual policies in schools.[6]

✓ In Colorado Springs, we've been engaged in trying to persuade the District 11 School Board to heed the overwhelming message of their constituents (they received over 8,000 cards) — that we want a pro-marriage, pro-abstinence, anti-promiscuity policy to guide teachers and students. After telling us flat-out that they endorsed every one of these three priorities, the board disregarded the overwhelming expression of the community and passed a statement endorsing abstinence and discouraging promiscuity — but leaving out marriage. "Traditional marriage is too divisive," they told us. "If we hold that up as the ideal, we might hurt somebody's feelings."

What do we say to logic (or, rather, illogic) like that? Do we point out that there's nothing offensive or oppressive in holding up a standard for desirable behavior? Do we point out that valuing traditional marriage is the cornerstone to promoting morality among our youth?

No. I don't think so. Once they've discarded the will of the people — our will, your will — public officials insulate themselves from further discussion. First, we must realize the importance of preventing the legalization of homosexual "marriage." We know, and history has proven, that only a tiny minority of homosexuals care about long-term monogamous relationships. This is really about forcing affirmation of their lifestyle into every sector of society, especially our schools. Once homosexuals gain "marriage," you can forget about free speech on this issue.

Secondly, we exercise our rights as voters. We find out who our delegates are, how they stood on the issue, and we vote our conscience. And that's one major reason why I'm writing today. Now, just before an election, is our time of greatest opportunity.

When a governor or a justice or a city councilperson or school board member flaunts the values of his or her constituents, there's just one thing we can, and must, do about it. When some Colorado legislators insist on reproposing, year after year, a so-called Hate Crimes bill

trampling the First Amendment rights of citizens holding traditional values, when a governor promises to sign a bill protecting traditional marriage then vetoes it at the last moment, then appoints a pro-homosexual "commission" to study same-sex marriage, what do we do?

We research every candidate on the issues, and then we vote our conscience.

Will you do that? The solution to all our frustrating encounters with government is to replace those in power with people who will uphold the rights of all our citizens — conservatives included. It will take time, but starting this year, we can do this. Starting at our most local level.

In closing, I'd like to ask your support for a very special project Colorado for Family Values will undertake in the closing months of 1997. As we did during the Amendment 2 campaign, we intend to produce a single, comprehensive document containing a powerful overview of the militant homosexual movement at work today. This publication would be packed with real-life stories of people whose lives, careers and families have been hurt by so-called "gay rights" policies. It would be produced for the sole purpose of providing you, our supporters, with a readable, compelling piece you can leave at church, libraries and other public places to "get out the truth" on this issue — a truth so often censored by left-leaning media.

Would you consider a special "above and beyond" gift this month, in additional to your usual support, to help fund the production and mailing of this document to every Colorado for Family Values supporter? We believe the truth is being withheld from the people of Colorado and the nation. This publication could give every one of us a tool to combat that censorship.

We'd also like to hear from you. What is happening in your community regarding homosexual activism? We'd like to know. We are also always interested in your thoughts about the role of Colorado for Family Values. We cherish your letters and notes. At board meetings, my colleagues and I pass around letters we receive from you and give them a great deal of weight in our deliberations and decisions.

Finally, thank you. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer, in moral support, and in financial help. Without you, our work to protect freedom of belief on this issue would be simply impossible. Please continue to pray for our nation and, in this month when "National Coming Out of Homosexuality Day" will be celebrated, pray for the liberation of all those trapped in the tragic addiction of homosexual behavior.

Sincerely,

Will Perkins

Will Perkins

Footnotes

[1] "Diversity curriculum heads to class in Provincetown schools," *The Washington Blade Online!*, September 5, 1997.
[2] Viet Dinh, "Private school for Gay teens opens in Dallas," *The Washington Blade Online!*, September 5, 1997.
[3] Eric Rofes, "It's Elementary: Gay Issues, the Right Wing, and Schools," April 1997.
[4] Jennifer Lee, "PTA Backs Pro-Homosexual Educational Film," Minnesota Family Council's *ProFamily News*, December 1996 .
[5] "School Activism in CA, CO," PlanetOut News, August18 1997.
[6] *GLSTN Campaign Update: Week 2*, Gay and Lesbian Straight Teachers Network, September 1996.